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Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, a fellow members of the committee,

My name is Sophie Miller and I am a junior at Wesleyan University. I am currently the president of the Planned Parenthood chapter on campus as well as an intern with Planned Parenthood of South New England.

I am submitting written testimony in support of proposed S.B. 216, An Act Expanding the Sales Tax Exemption to Include Feminine Hygiene Products and Disposable or Reusable Diapers. This bill would extent the 6.23% sales tax exemption of medical supplies to tampons, pads and baby diapers and thus reducing the financial burden on women. It would also decrease the financial burden for low income people as such products are not currently covered by SNAP or WIC.

Menstruation is something every woman experiences. Tampons and pads are thus necessary items that women need to function in their everyday lives. These items are essential. We live in a society that has a history of discriminating against female bodies. Women's bodies are scrutinized, judged, photo-shopped, violated and consumed. They are used for financial gain. This current tax is another way in which certain bodies are exploited more than others. The tax discriminates against women's bodies. It exploits a body that menstruates for financial gain. This is an undue burden especially when women are earning on average 78.3% as much as men. Menstruation is a bodily condition that every woman experiences. Taxing a biological fact is another form of exploitation of that body. Passing this bill is another step towards ending the exploitation of women's bodies in our society.

As a result of the current tax, women are expected to carry a huge financial burden simply because they menstruate. As a college student with large loans to pay, I cannot afford to spend around \$936 a year on menstrual items. The tax is a financial burden men at my school don't carry. I should not have to pay for simply being a woman. People shouldn't experience monetary gain because of what my body is biologically programmed to do. The tax is another way in which I feel people benefit and make money off of my body. S.B. 216 thus reduces this exploitation of and increased financial burden for women.

Overall, it is my belief that the extenuation of the tax exemption to pads, tampons, and baby diapers would reduce the financial burden women in Connecticut face. Connecticut should pass this bill for it demonstrates that these items are not luxury items, they are necessities. It is a way of respecting and aiding women. The tax is simply discriminatory towards women for these items are basic needs.

Sincerely,
Sophie Miller